

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/797,617

Applicant(s)

RHOADS ET AL.

Examiner

Andrae S. Allison

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed on October 26, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8, 10-11 and 15-20, now renumbered as claims 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☒ SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☒ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/26/2007</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Remarks

1. The Office Action has been issued in response to RCE filed October 26, 2007. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-11 and 15-20 are pending.

IDS

The IDS dated (10/26/2007) has been considered by the Examiner.

Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The most pertinent prior art is Cox (Patent No.: 6,226,396) and Ho et al (Patent No.: 6,983,057). Cox discloses a robust digital watermarking method: the method includes inputting image data with registration signals embedded therein, subjected to geometric transformation, and extracting registration signals from said inputted image data to perform registration processing. Cox teaches registration signal extracting step of extracting registration signals from said image data. Cox further teaches a frequency property determining step of determining frequency properties of said image data. However Cox does not teach a geometric transforming step of performing inverse transformation of said identified geometric transformation. Ho discloses a method for embedding a watermark including a geometric transforming step of performing inverse transformation of said identified

geometric transformation. However, neither Cox nor Ho disclose a geometric transformation identifying step of identifying geometric transformation to which said image data is subjected, using said extracted registration signals and determination results of said determination in the frequency property determining step. Therefore, if watermarked data has undergone some kind of geometric transformation or attack by a perpetrator trying to altered the watermarked data, this method would be able to discern the type of attach and restore the watermark data. The examiner finds no reason or motivation to combine the above references in an obvious rejection thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Hosinger et al (US Patent No.: 5,835,639) is cited to teach a method for detecting rotation and magnification in images

Rhoads et al (US Patent No.: 6,408,082) is cited to teach watermark detection using a fourier mellin transform.

Rhoads et al (US Patent No.: 6424725) is cited to teach a method for determining transformation of media signals with embedded code.

Rhoads (US Patent No.: 6,567,533) is cited to teach a method for discerning image distortion.

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrae S. Allison whose telephone number is (571) 270-1052. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Meta can be reached on (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

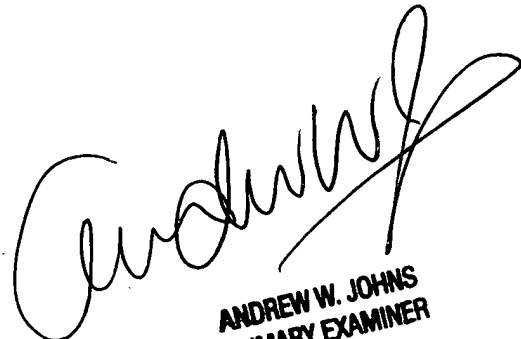
Andrae Allison

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January 3, 2008

A.A.



ANDREW W. JOHNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER